



Dear Legislators:

Please do not support the Governors proposed cuts to the Children's Trust Fund. This cut directly impacts the dozens of children and hundreds of parents we serve at Hands On Hartford.

We believe the use of this evidence based preventative approach is the most cost effective tool that the State has to reduce abuse and neglect of our youngest citizens.

Hands On Hartford operates one of the **Family School Connection** (FSC) sites. FSC is an extension of the Nurturing Families Network (NFN) model to families with school-age children. Operating from five sites, FSC provides home visitation and support services for families of children who have been identified as having truancy, academic, and/or behavior issues (indicators of neglect in the home.)

- FSC has been found to significantly improve parenting skills, reduce stress, address basic needs and increase the family's involvement in the life of their child.

Our program is cost-effective! The most intensive CTF program (home visits through the Nurturing Families Network) cost just over \$3,000 per year. Compare this to \$30,000 per year for each substantiated DCF case, and over \$44,000 per year for each inmate in Connecticut's correctional system.

Moreover through the Trust Fund, Connecticut is gaining national visibility as a leader in child abuse prevention. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has given our **Nurturing Families Network Group** "*Proven Program*" status. One of the newest programs, **Family School Connection**, has earned "*Community Impact Award*" by the Association of Junior Leagues International.

Please maintain funding of these critical programs.

Respectfully,

Doug Sudell